

PRESS RELEASE

Erik C. Peterson
United States Attorney
Western District of Wisconsin
(608) 264-5158
TTY (608) 264-5006
www.usdoj.gov/usao/wiw

For Immediate Release

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Contact Person

Timothy M. O'Shea
Assistant U.S. Attorney

Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Carrie Wheaton, 30, pleaded guilty this afternoon before Chief U.S. District Court Judge Barbara B. Crabb. Wheaton pleaded guilty to knowingly using minors to engage in sexually explicit conduct for the purpose of producing visual depictions of such conduct.

Wheaton faces a mandatory penalty of 15 years in prison, and a maximum penalty of 30 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, and a lifetime period of supervised release. Wheaton will be sentenced at 1:00 p.m. on September 23, 2008.

Wheaton's co-defendant, Roger Smith, 37, Hollandale, Wis., pleaded guilty before Judge Crabb on June 20, 2008, and he will be sentenced at 1:00 p.m. on September 12, 2008.

The charge followed an investigation by the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force of the Wisconsin Department of Justice and the Iowa County Sheriff's Department. The prosecution of this case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Timothy M. O'Shea.

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